

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS  
NORTHERN DIVISION**

MONICA SMITH,  
#71295

PLAINTIFF

v.

3:21CV00048-DPM-JTK

DOES

DEFENDANTS

**ORDER**

**I. Introduction**

Plaintiff Smith is an inmate who filed a Complaint (Doc. No. 1) pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, but did not submit the \$402.00 filing fee or an in forma pauperis (IFP) Motion.

Under the Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”), a prisoner who is permitted to file a civil action in forma pauperis still must pay the full statutory filing fee of \$350.<sup>1</sup> 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). The only question is whether a prisoner will pay the entire filing fee at the initiation of the proceeding or in installments over a period of time. Ashley v. Dilworth, 147 F.3d 715, 716 (8th Cir. 1998). Even if a prisoner is without assets and unable to pay an initial filing fee, he/she will be allowed to proceed with his/her §1983 claims and the filing fee will be collected by the Court in installments from the prisoner’s inmate trust account. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(4). **If the prisoner’s case is subsequently dismissed for any reason, including a determination that it is frivolous, malicious, fails to state a claim, or seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief, the full amount of the \$350 filing fee will be collected and no portion of this filing fee will be refunded to the prisoner.**

The PLRA requires a Plaintiff to submit a proper and complete Motion to Proceed In Forma

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<sup>1</sup> Effective December 1, 2020, the statutory filing fee for civil actions increased to \$402, due to the implementation of a \$52 administrative fee. This \$52 fee does not, however, apply to in forma pauperis actions.

Pauperis, along with calculation sheet prepared and signed by an authorized officer of the detention center. Plaintiff Smith must submit, within thirty (30) days from entry of this Order, either: (1) the statutory filing fee of \$402; or (2) a proper and complete IFP Motion, **with the required calculation sheet signed by an authorized official of the detention center at which she is confined.**

## II. Screening

The Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA) requires federal courts to screen prisoner complaints seeking relief against a governmental entity, officer, or employee. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). The Court must dismiss a complaint or portion thereof if the prisoner has raised claims that: (a) are legally frivolous or malicious; (b) fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted; or (c) seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b).

An action is frivolous if “it lacks an arguable basis either in law or in fact.” Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989). An action fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted if it does not plead “enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007).

In reviewing a pro se complaint under § 1915(e)(2)(B), the court must give the complaint the benefit of a liberal construction. Haines v. Kerner, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972). The court must also weigh all factual allegations in favor of the plaintiff, unless the facts alleged are clearly baseless. Denton v. Hernandez, 504 U.S. 25, 32 (1992); Scheuer v. Rhodes, 416 U.S. 232, 236 (1974). But regardless whether a plaintiff is represented or appearing pro se, the complaint must allege specific facts sufficient to state a claim. See Martin v. Sargent, 780 F.2d 1334, 1337 (8th Cir. 1985).

Additionally, to survive a court's 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2) and 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(c)(1)

screening, a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to “state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009), citing Twombly, 550 U.S. at 570. A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged. Twombly, 550 U.S. at 556-7. The plausibility standard is not akin to a “probability requirement,” but it asks for more than a sheer possibility that a defendant has acted unlawfully. Where a complaint pleads facts that are “merely consistent with” a defendant's liability, it “stops short of the line between possibility and plausibility of entitlement to relief.” Id.

### III. Analysis

Plaintiff did not file her complaint on a proper § 1983 complaint form and did not identify any named individuals as defendants. The Court will provide Plaintiff the opportunity to amend her Complaint in accordance with FED.R.CIV.P 8(a)(2), which requires a “short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” Plaintiff is directed to file a short Amended Complaint which sets forth **one claim** (referring to one incident) against named Defendants, which she wishes to pursue in this case. (Her other claims should be set forth in separate lawsuits.) This Amended Complaint will render her Original Complaint without legal effect, and will take the place of those pleadings.<sup>2</sup> In the Amended Complaint, Plaintiff shall specifically and clearly state the following: **(1) the name of each individual personally involved in the actions at issue in the complaint; (2) how each individual was personally involved in**

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<sup>2</sup>“An amended complaint ‘ordinarily supersedes the original and renders it of no legal effect.’” In Home Health, Inc. v. Prudential Ins. Co. Of America, 101 F.3d 600, 603 (8th Cir. 1996) (quoting International Controls Corp. v. Vesco, 556 F.2d 665, 668 (2d Cir. 1994) (other citations omitted)).

those actions; (3) how each individual violated the Plaintiff's constitutional rights; 4) how she was harmed; and 5) whether she was incarcerated as a pretrial detainee. Plaintiff must set forth specific facts concerning the allegations she has set forth including, where applicable, dates, times and places. Accordingly,

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Plaintiff Smith must submit either the \$402 statutory filing fee or an In Forma Pauperis Motion, within thirty days of the entry date of this Order.<sup>3</sup>

2. In accordance with the above instructions, Plaintiff shall file an Amended Complaint using the enclosed § 1983 complaint form within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. Failure to file an Amended Complaint or to abide by the Court's above instructions may result in dismissal of this action without prejudice. See Local Rule 5.5(c)(2).

3. The Clerk is directed to send to Plaintiff an In Forma Pauperis Motion, together with the filing fee calculation sheet, and a § 1983 complaint form.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.



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JEROME T. KEARNEY  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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<sup>3</sup> The Plaintiff is hereby notified of her responsibility to comply with the Local Rules of the Court, including Rule 5.5(c)(2), which states: "... If any communication from the Court to a pro se plaintiff is not responded to within thirty (30) days, the case may be dismissed without prejudice. Any party proceeding pro se shall be expected to be familiar with and follow the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure."